Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items within a

2   main application window, the method comprising:

3   rendering a list of control objects each of the control objects in the list of control

4   objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and potentially an additional

5   properties portion with one or more control;

6   receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;

7   and

8   applying the control properties of the first control object to one or more selected

9   items within the main application window.

1   2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:

2   receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a control object, the

3   control object being located within the rendered list of control objects; and

4   modifying one or more control object properties or applying the item in a different

5   way in response to the properties mouse click upon the properties portion of the control

6   object.

1   3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving a propertied mouse click

2 comprises:

3   receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of an control object, the

4 control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

5   rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

6   receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

7   determining an identity of a selected menu item from the location of the menu-item

8 mouse click; and

9   applying the selected menu item.

1   4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the pop-up menu is a contextual

2 menu having menu items determined by a current state of the control object.

1   5.   The method according to claim 2, wherein the list of control objects is rendered

2 within a scrollable window.

1   6.   The method according to claim 5, wherein the scrollable window containing the

2 list of control objects is scrollable in vertical direction.

1   7.   The method according to claim 5, wherein the scrollable window is resizable.

1   8.   A method for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items

2 within a main application window, the method comprising:

3   rendering a list of control objects, each of the control objects in the list of control

4   objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and a properties portion and one

5   or more control properties;

6   receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a first control object,

7   the first control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

8   rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

9   receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

10   determining an identity of a selected menu item from the menu-item mouse click;

11   performing an action based upon the selected menu item;

12   receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;

13   and

14   applying the control properties of the control object;

15   wherein the pop-up menu is a contextual menu having menu items determined by a

16   current state of the control object;

17   the list of control objects is rendered within a scrollable window;

18   the scrollable window containing the list of control objects is scrollable in vertical

19   direction; and

20   the scrollable window is resizable.

1   9.   A computer program data product readable by a computing system and

2   encoding instructions for providing a user interface control to modify properties of items

3   within a main application window, the method comprising:

4   rendering a list of control objects, each of the control objects in the list of control

5   objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection portion and a properties portion and one

6   or more control properties that affect one or more items within the main application window;

7   receiving a selection mouse click upon a selection portion of the first control object;

8   and

9   applying the control properties of the first control object to one or more selected

10   items within the main application window.

1   10.   The computer data product according to claim 9, wherein receiving a

2   propertied mouse click comprises:

3   receiving a properties mouse click upon a properties portion of a first control object,

4   the first control object being located within the rendered list of control objects;

5   rendering a pop-up menu, the pop-up menu having one or more menu items;

6   receiving a menu-item mouse click upon one of the one or more menu items;

7   determining an identity of a selected menu item from the location of the menu-item

8   mouse click; and

9   modifying one or more control object properties based upon the selected menu item.

1   11.   The computer data product according to claim 10, wherein the pop-up menu is

2   a contextual menu having menu items determined by a current state of the first control object

3   and the list of control objects is rendered within a scrollable window that may be resized.

1   12.   The computer data product according to claim 11, wherein the scrollable

2   window containing the list of control objects is scrollable in the vertical direction.

1   13.   The computer data product according to claim 12, wherein the scrollable

2   window is automatically resizable to an expanded size in response to a mouse click upon a

3   fly-out input control.

1   14.   The computer data product according to claim 13, wherein the computer data

2   product is a computer readable storage medium.

1   15.   A computing system for providing a user interface control to modify

2   properties of items within a main application window, the computing system comprising:

3   a main application window containing one or more application items, each application

4   item having one or more control properties affecting a behavior of the application item;

5   a gallery control window containing a list of one or more control objects for modifying

6   control properties of the application items located within the main application window, each

7   of the control objects in the list of control objects comprise a graphical icon having a selection

8   portion and a properties portion and one or more control properties that affect one or more

9   items within the main application window;

10   a control object selection processing module for modifying one or more application

11   items within the main application window based upon current values of control properties of

12   a selected control object selected using a mouse click located upon a selection portion of the

13   selected control object; and

14   a control object focus processing module for modifying current values of control

15   properties of a focus control object identified using a mouse click located upon a properties

16   portion of the focus control object.

1   16.   The computing system according to claim 15, wherein the control object focus

2   module comprises:

3   a focus control processing module for processing mouse moves and clicks received

4   from focus control objects;

5   a control focus property module for retrieving current values of control properties for

6   the focus control object and modifying control propertied for the focus control object;

7   a control contextual menu module for providing a contextual list of control properties

8   to be modified, the contents of the contextual list is determined based upon current values of

9   control properties for the focus control object; and

10 a control contextual menu option data store for maintaining contextual list data for use

11 by the control contextual menu module.

1 17. The computing system according to claim 15, wherein the control object

2 selection processing module comprises:

3 a selection control processing module for processing mouse clicks received from

4 selection control objects;

5 a gallery control window rendering processing module for constructing a visual

6 representation for the gallery control window;

7 a gallery control scrolling window for controlling the size and position of a visible

8 portion of the list of one or more control objects;

9 a gallery most-recently used module for maintaining a separate list of recently used

10 control objects that is concatenated to the list of one or more control object before

11 presentation to a user by the gallery control window rendering processing module; and

12 a gallery control fly-out module for controlling the size of the gallery control window

13 as a multi-dimensional collection of control objects.

1 18. The computing system according to claim 17, wherein the gallery control

2 window is automatically resizable to an expanded size in response to a mouse click upon a

3 fly-out input control.